Nun on the run

Sometimes it's difficult to find enough time for God

BY MAJIA PENIKIS
Post-Crescent staff writer

Rose Mary Pint is today's woman by any standards, and is accepted as such in her role as assistant administrator of St. Elizabeth Hospital.

It's when she adds her title of "Sister" in front of her name that she gets a few sideways glances.

"I can't blame people for that, though. They have been raised in a time when most nuns were quiet, demure and undemonstrative," she said in an interview.

That interview was conducted during, around and between office hours, tours of the departments she heads, telephone calls and meetings. It had to be, because that's the way her day goes.

"It gets busy around here," she said, adding, "In fact, I have to make certain at times I leave enough spaces in my day to get my life together before my God."

"If I didn't, how would I be different from anyone else?" she said.

It's statements such as these that stand as proof that she is, first and foremost, a nun, despite her colorful clothes, her somewhat unorthodox manner of speaking and her outlook on life.

"It's just that I'm not what they used to be, so to speak," Sister Rose Mary grins.

She's come a long way from Raymond, Iowa, "a spit and a whistle stop between Waterloo and Dubuque," as she describes it. "I kind of fell into all of this administration business," she added, extending her arms to include the spacious office with its stacks of books on hospital policies and philosophies.

"All I knew for sure was that I wanted to be a religious," she said. "And I knew I didn't want to be a teacher because I hated school. I hated school all the way through college. I first started to enjoy it when I went into the independent study program for my master's degree," she recalled.

So teaching was out and nursing was in for the young woman who had joined the Wheaton (Illinois) Sisters right after high school.

"There's not a scratch of similarity between me then and now. The bull-headedness is about all that's left," said the nun who became a nun despite the objection of her parents.

"They felt I was too young; hadn't seen enough to make a decision. But I had thought it out pretty well and knew this was the life for me," she stated.

Miss Pint became Sister Rose Mary, quiet, demure and disciplined, just as she was supposed to be. "I didn't enter (Continued on Page 2)
Sister Rose Mary is modern woman executive

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to challenge the system. I didn't go in with the idea that I had gotten some divine orders to straighten out the order.

"Any questioning of whether we are truly meeting the needs of the people we serve in the best way possible came around 1965," the hospital official said.

Up to that time, she followed the usual path young nuns follow. She attended Marillac College in St. Louis, a sister center which Sister Rose Mary claims is moderately known as "The West Point for nuns," receiving a B.S. degree in nursing in 1966. For six months after that, she got field experience at Wheaton hospitals.

It was during the last year that the questions cropped up, "and then they came with a vengeance. I wanted to know why we were here, what we were doing, and were we with it, all rolled into one question," the sister recalled.

It was also during that time that she was moved to St. Michael Hospital in Milwaukee, and put in charge of the alcoholic services and director of the outpatient clinic.

"I got the handle, 'alcoholic nun,' and thought it was great, because that meant that those who came to me for help accepted me. At first, though, the preconceived idea was that their situation was abhorrent to me. Once they learned I held no grudges, we got on OK," Sister Rose Mary explained.

"The last name, though, well, that brought out quite a few jokes," Sister Pint laughed.

Not long after that, the community pulled her out of Milwaukee and put her on a task force to study the health care apostolate. At the same time she served as junior director for the order and attended St. Louis University for her masters degree.

"We redefined our goals and philosophies of health care, we formed an advisory council which included lay persons involved in our hospitals, and we decided to stay in the field because that's what our thing is all about - preciousness and dignity of human life," she stated.

Her masters' studies, however, were not in health care, but human relations, with the research done on housing and planning which revealed the pitfalls of low income developments.

When her community went into the cohabism services program at the hospital, and wheels and deals with anything that comes up as part of the administrative task.

"I was one of the first to give up the nun's garb not because I didn't want to be a nun, but because it often put a distance between me and the people I served.

"I can't tell you how many times people would come because they felt I couldn't understand gut issues. It just didn't serve the purpose," the Wheaton sister said.

Despite her attitudes, she gets on well with the other sisters in her community. "I care for them and they know I do, so anything else is secondary," she commented.

"Besides, I'm in charge of the music for the community. Sometimes it's more difficult to find an organist and guitarist than an assistant administrator," Sister Rose Mary added.
Busy nun

Meetings and more meetings, some counseling sessions, daily checks on departments within her realm — these are just some of the tasks to which Sister Rose Mary Pint, assistant administrator of St. Elizabeth Hospital faces.

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Sister Rose Mary New Face On Administrative Scene At Hospital

By Kip Vincent

APPLETON — "I entered St. Elizabeth Hospital precisely at 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 23, 1973, and have been working in the health care apostolate ever since," said Sister Rose Mary Pint, new assistant administrator at the hospital.

Born in Raymond, Iowa, Sister attributes her positive outlook to her parental guidance. "My folks were always firm, and there was discipline," she stated.

Receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing, she worked at St. Michael Hospital in Milwaukee for over two years and also spent nine months in St. Louis. After earning her Master's Degree from St. Louis University, she continued her Christian service in health care.

Asking why she chose the administrative field, Sister Rose Mary explained, "Four sisters of the Franciscan community were assigned work on the Health Care Advisory Council, with goals of how to better Christianize our health care institutions, to revitalize all areas. This Health Care Advisory Council involves a thrust into human and community development, with a three-focus program, including professional, spiritual, and personal growth.

IN PROJECTING this program, the newly created pastoral care phase of healing has greatly helped to Christianize participative management and environmental growth," Sister said.

With an Irish-German sense of humor, Sister Rose Mary said, "Becoming a Franciscan was the answer to 'what's the best thing I could do with my life?'"

She spoke of the most significant changes in hospital care, stating, "The formula of total healing is the philosophy, the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of all."

Sister Rose Mary mused on her early schooling, saying, "I never really liked school until graduate school, which I found stimulating."

A MUSICIAN and organist, she loves music and directs the sisters' choir.

A glance at Sister's schedule will show that her responsibilities are numerous, with job duties in 11 categories.

With 11 years of service as a Franciscan, Sister Rose Mary noted, "Through motivation and discipline, I decided hospital administration was for me."

She added, "We need to draw the best out of others; this is our mission in the world."